

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: GOP CONFIRMS AND BROADENS GENERAL AMNESTY OF JULY 14

REF: LIMA 6290

1. BY DECREE LAW APPROVED IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ON JULY 18, THE GOP HAS DICTATED A GENERAL AMNESTY AND
PARDON TO ALL CIVILIANS AND MILITARY EITHER SENTENCED
OR ON TRIAL IN REGULAR AND MILITARY COURTS FOR "POLITICAL
OR SOCIAL ACTS". THE LAW RESTORES THE CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS OF THE AMNESTIED INDIVIDUALS, ORDERS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OF THOSE AFFECTED BY THE AMNESTY, AND CHARGES THE MFA AND THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ARRANGING FOR
THE RETURN OF "POLITICAL OR SOCIAL EXILES."

2. COMMENT: THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL AMNESTY,
WHICH CONFIRMS AND EXPANDS ON THE JULY 14 MEASURE
(REFTEL), IS TO INSURE HARMONY AMONG ALL PERUVIANS IN
ORDER TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND TO INSURE
FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE DRAFTING OF A NEW CONSTITUTION
AND THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. THE GOP'S REASON FOR
DECLARING AN AMNESTY ON THE EVE OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IS PROBABLY TO TRY TO PREVENT THE QUESTION
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OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DEPORTEES FROM BECOMING AN ISSUE
IN THE ASSEMBLY. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE MEASURE IS
SMALL. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT SORT OF "SOCIAL ACTS" ARE
INCLUDED UNDER THE AMNESTY, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
THERE ARE NO LONG-TERM POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERU. THE MESAURE
MAY BE A CONCESSION TO STRIKING TEACHERS, WHOSE UNION LEADERS
HAVE BEEN DETAINED OFF AND ON DURING THE TWO-MONTH-PLUS STRIKE.

WE KNOW THAT SOME OF THESE TEACHERS ALREADY HAVE BEEN RELEASED,
AND ALL ARRESTED PRIOR TO JULY 18 ARE EXPECTED TO BE FREED.
HOWEVER, THE DECREE PRIMARILY AFFECTS RECENT DEPORTEES AND A FEW
WHO WERE EXILED DURING THE VELASCO REGIME AND CONTINUE TO LIVE
ABROAD.

DECON 12/20/78.

SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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